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IDNR Reminds Visitors to Make Campsite and Shelter Reservations at ReserveAmerica.com

SPRINGFIELD, IL -- As Illinois' busiest camping season arrives, Illinois residents and visitors are reminded that reservations for most Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) campsites, cabins, group campsites and picnic shelters can be made online through the ReserveAmerica reservation system at www.reserveamerica.com.

The online campsite reservation system makes it more convenient for visitors to reserve a spot at Illinois state parks, recreation areas and state fish and wildlife areas. Families, anglers, hunters, hikers and people just looking to relax outdoors can make a reservation online using a Visa or MasterCard, ensuring that their campsite will be waiting for them.

Reserving campsites and shelters through ReserveAmerica's easy-to-navigate website allows users to receive instant confirmation of their reservations at IDNR sites. The IDNR no longer accepts camping and shelter reservations through the mail or over the phone.

Reservations for regular campsites and group campsites require a \$5 non-refundable reservation fee and payment of the full camping and utility fees at the time the reservation is made. Camping fee information for IDNR sites is available at www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/PARKS/. Payment of the entire camping and utility fee amount will guarantee that the reservation will be held for the entire length of the stay. Shelter reservation fees are \$25.

Campsites can be reserved for a maximum of 14 nights per 30-day period and reservations must be made at least seven or five days before the campsite is needed, depending on the facility. Reservations for Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day weekends may require a two- or three-night minimum stay reservation, depending on the facility.

Campsite reservations through the online system are available at 67 of Illinois' state parks and other sites managed by the IDNR. Shelter reservations are available at 51 sites. Campsites that are not subject to reservation at IDNR sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. IDNR encourages visitors to call ahead to the appropriate park office before traveling to check current weather conditions and accessibility.